



# SUBHADRA

BELOVED SISTER OF KRISHNA AND BALARAMA

Vol 758





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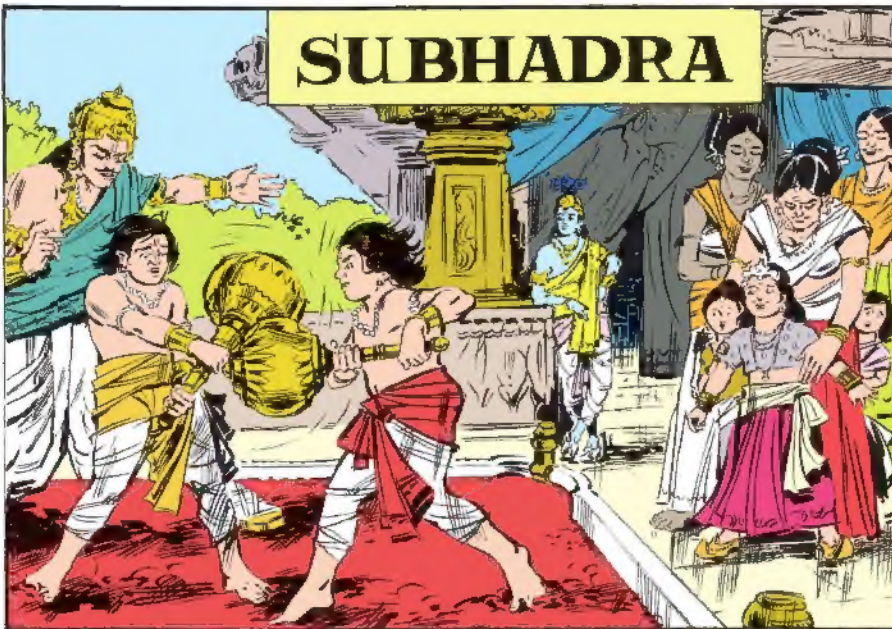
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Anant Pai

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# SUBHADRA



SUBHADRA WAS THE BELOVED SISTER OF KRISHNA AND BALARAMA. BALARAMA, UNSURPASSED IN WIELDING THE MACE, TAUGHT MANY PRINCES THE ART.

BHEEMA, THE PANDAVA, AND HIS COUSIN DURYODHANA, THE KAURAVA WERE THE BEST PUPILS.



BHEEMA HAS STRENGTH, BUT DURYODHANA HAS THE SKILL.

OF THE TWO, DURYODHANA WAS HIS FAVOURITE.



HE CAN NEVER BE DEFEATED IN A DUEL. SUBHADRA SHALL WED HIM WHEN SHE COMES OF AGE.

WHEN THE COUSINS GREW UP, YUDHISHTHIRA, THE ELDEST PANDAVA, WAS PROCLAIMED THE HEIR APPARENT.

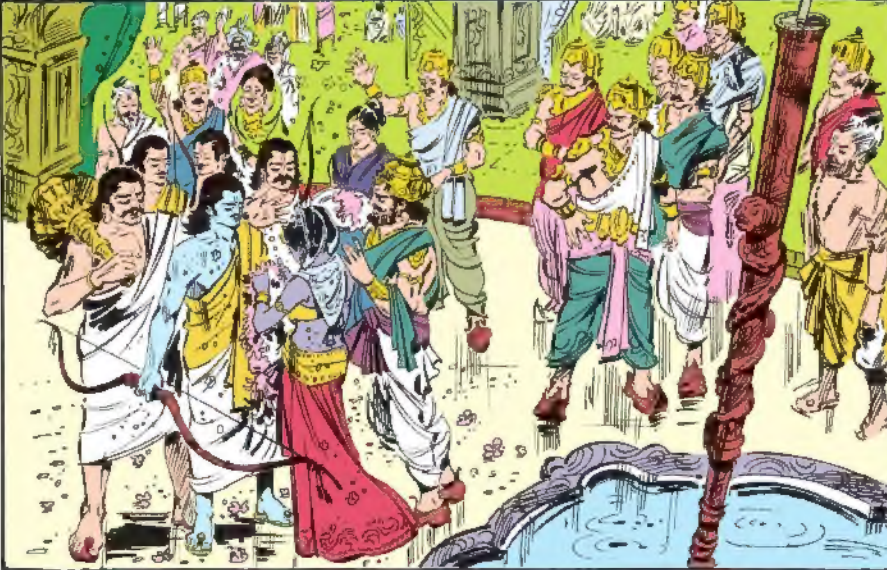


THE JEALOUS DURYODHANA TRIED TO BURN THEM ALIVE.



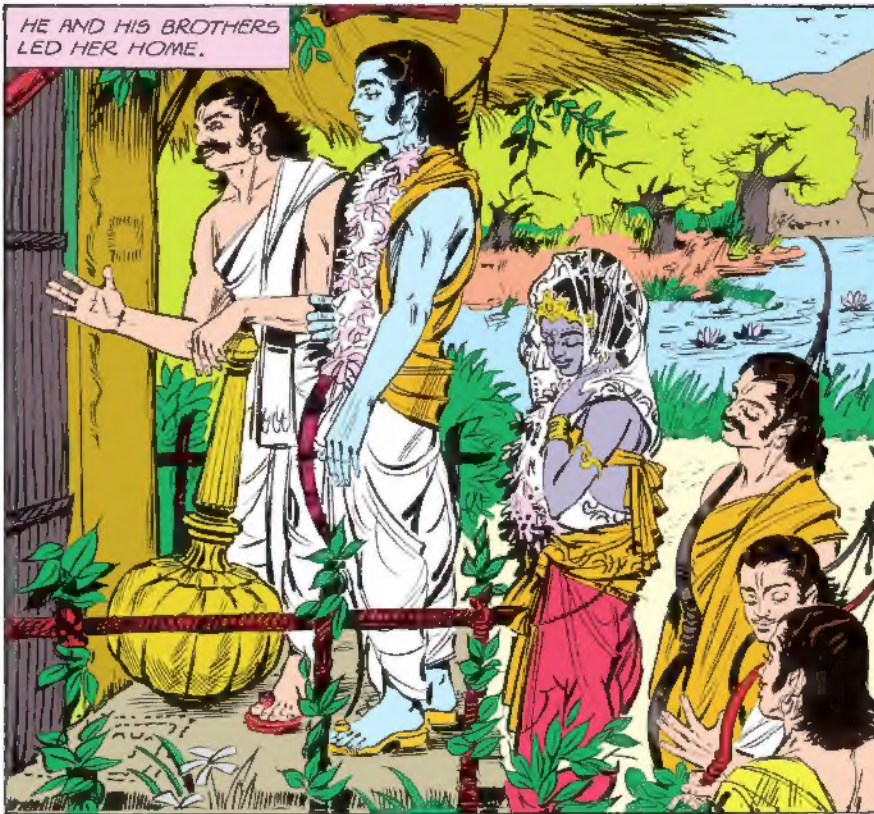
BUT THE PANDAVAS AND THEIR MOTHER KUNTI ESCAPED AND WENT INTO HIDING AS BRAHMANAS.

WHILE THEY WERE IN HIDING, ARJUNA, THE PANDAVA WON DRAUPADI, THE PRINCESS OF PANCHALA IN A SWAYAMVARA.



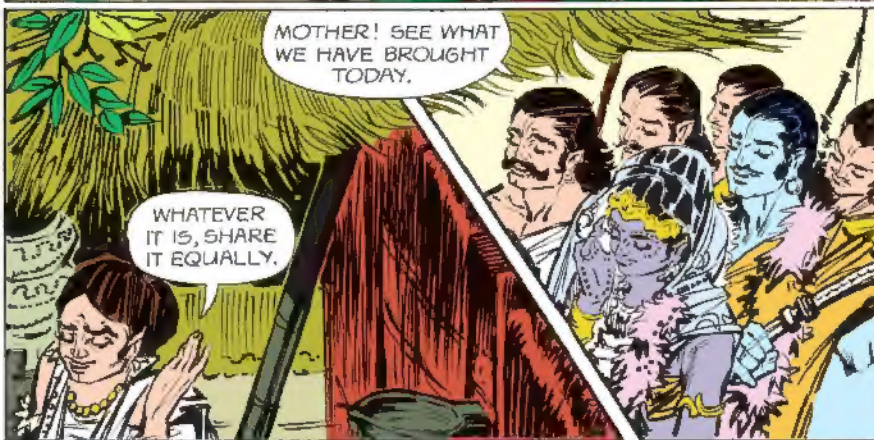


HE AND HIS BROTHERS  
LED HER HOME.



MOTHER! SEE WHAT  
WE HAVE BROUGHT  
TODAY.

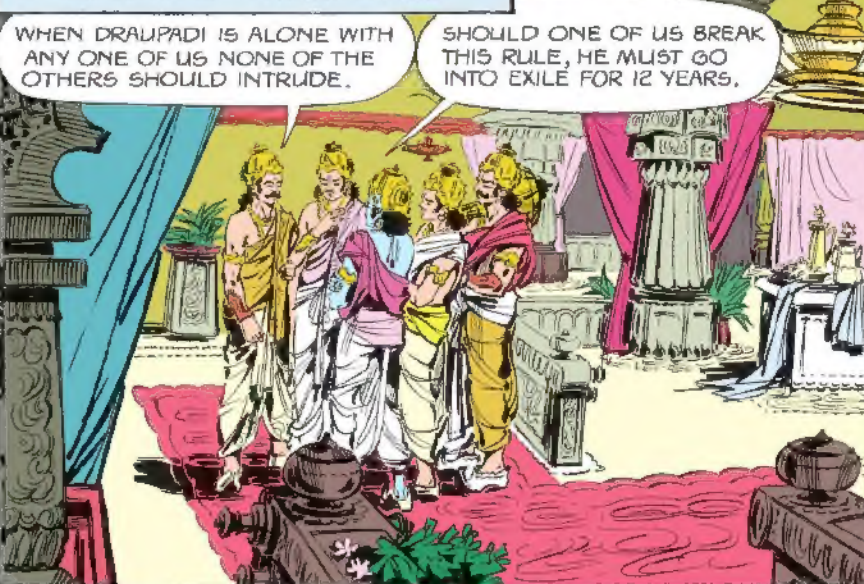
WHATEVER  
IT IS, SHARE  
IT EQUALLY.



SO DRAUPADI HAD TO BE WIFE TO ALL FIVE OF THEM. SOON AFTERWARDS HALF THEIR KINGDOM WAS RESTORED TO THEM AND THEY RETURNED WITH DRAUPADI AND MOTHER KUNTI, TO REIGN OVER IT.



THE PRINCES CAME TO AN AGREEMENT.





ONE DAY, DRAUPADI WAS ALONE WITH YUDHISHTHIRA.



JUST THEN A BRAHMAN CAME RUNNING TO ARJUNA.

O PANDAVA! THIEVES ARE DRIVING AWAY MY CATTLE. HELP! HELP!



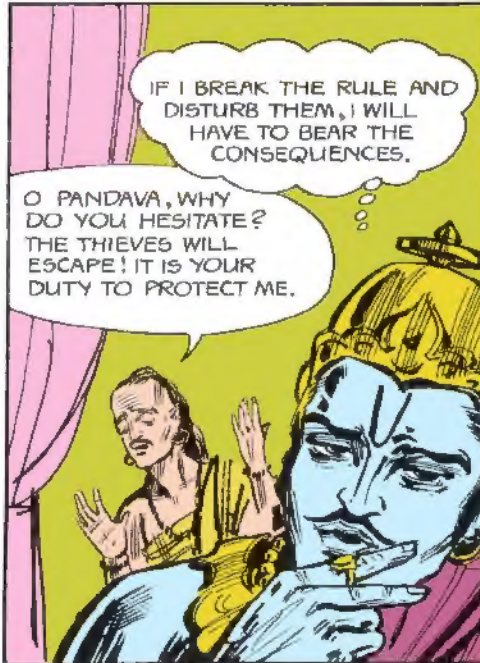
ARJUNA WAS IN A DILEMMA.

MY WEAPONS ARE IN YUDHISHTHIRA'S ROOM. AND DRAUPADI IS WITH HIM.



IF I BREAK THE RULE AND DISTURB THEM, I WILL HAVE TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES.

O PANDAVA, WHY DO YOU HESITATE? THE THIEVES WILL ESCAPE! IT IS YOUR DUTY TO PROTECT ME.





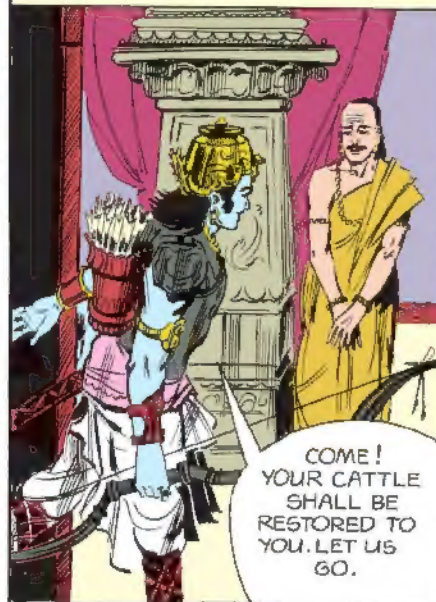
ARJUNA DECIDED TO BREAK THE RULE. HE RUSHED INTO THE ROOM...



...GRABBED THE WEAPONS...



...AND RUSHED OUT. THE BRAHMAN WAS WAITING FOR HIM.





ARJUNA RESTORED THE CATTLE TO THE BRAHMAN, AND RETURNED TO YUDHISHTHIRA.

I BROKE THE RULE.  
I AM READY TO GO  
AWAY FOR TWELVE  
YEARS.

NO, BELOVED  
BROTHER!  
I FORGIVE YOU.  
YOU MUST  
NOT GO.



A RULE IS A RULE.  
I HAVE BROKEN IT.  
I WILL TAKE MY  
PUNISHMENT.

AS YOU  
WISH.



AS ARJUNA SET OUT, HE  
WONDERED WHERE HE  
SHOULD GO AND WHAT  
HE SHOULD DO. AT LAST-

I WILL VISIT ALL  
THE HOLY  
PLACES ONE  
BY ONE.



DURING THE COURSE OF HIS PILGRIMAGE, HE REACHED PRABHASA NEAR DWARAKA.



HE WENT UP CLOSER.

IT'S A SHAME. IT WERE BETTER IF THE ALLIANCE WERE WITH THE PANDAVAS.





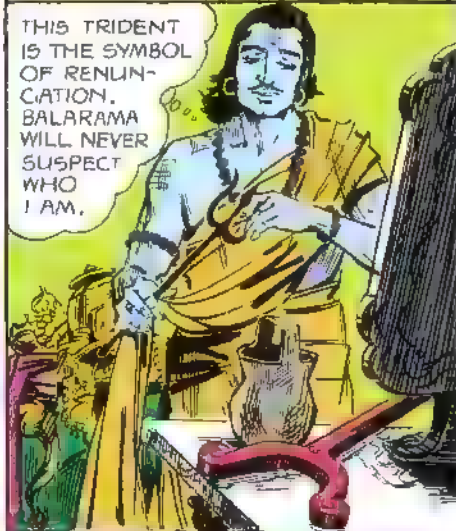
AND RIGHT THERE ARJUNA  
MADE A VOW TO HIMSELF.

AND SO  
SHALL IT  
BE. I SHALL  
WIN THE  
FAIR  
SUBHADRA.



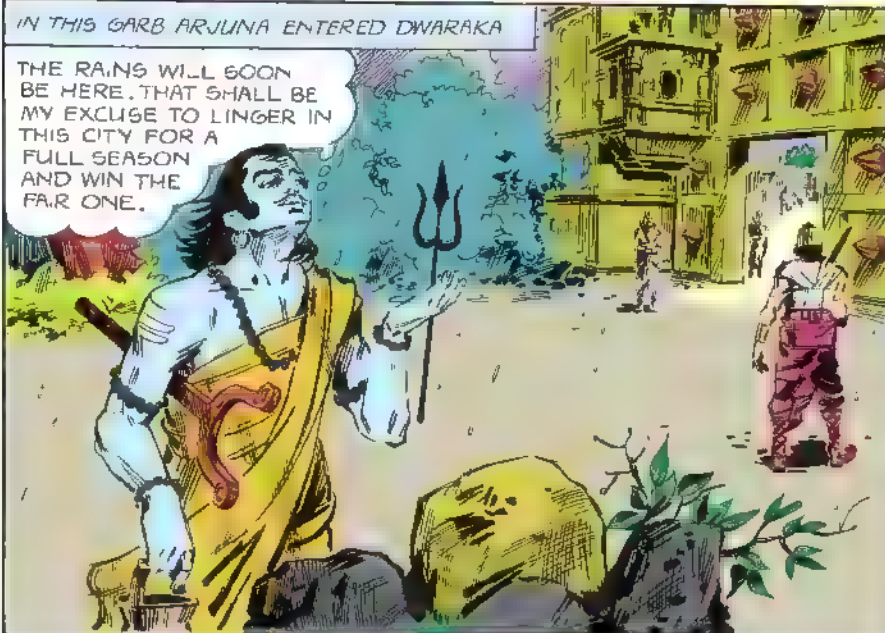
HE DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A  
SANYASI.

THIS TRIDENT  
IS THE SYMBOL  
OF RENUN-  
CATION.  
BALARAMA  
WILL NEVER  
SUSPECT  
WHO  
I AM.



IN THIS GARB ARJUNA ENTERED DWARAKA

THE RAINS WILL SOON  
BE HERE. THAT SHALL BE  
MY EXCUSE TO LINGER IN  
THIS CITY FOR A  
FULL SEASON  
AND WIN THE  
FAIR ONE.



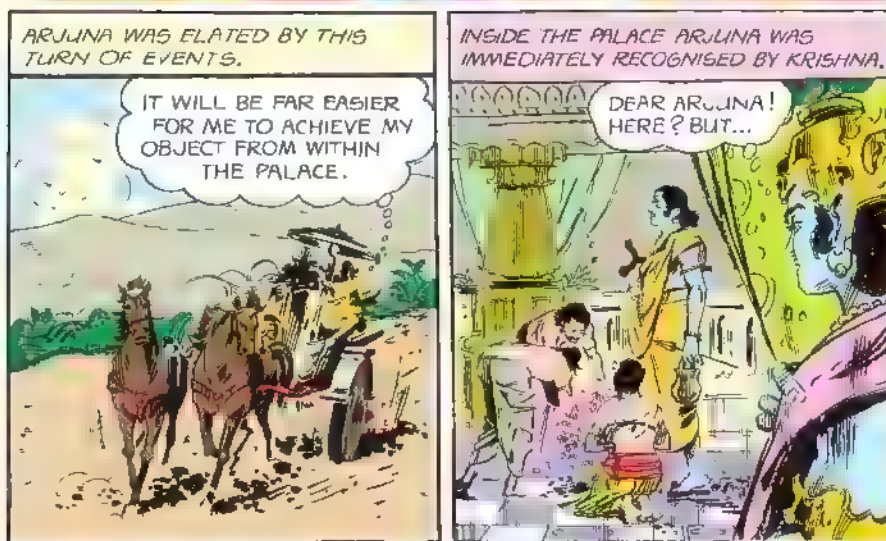
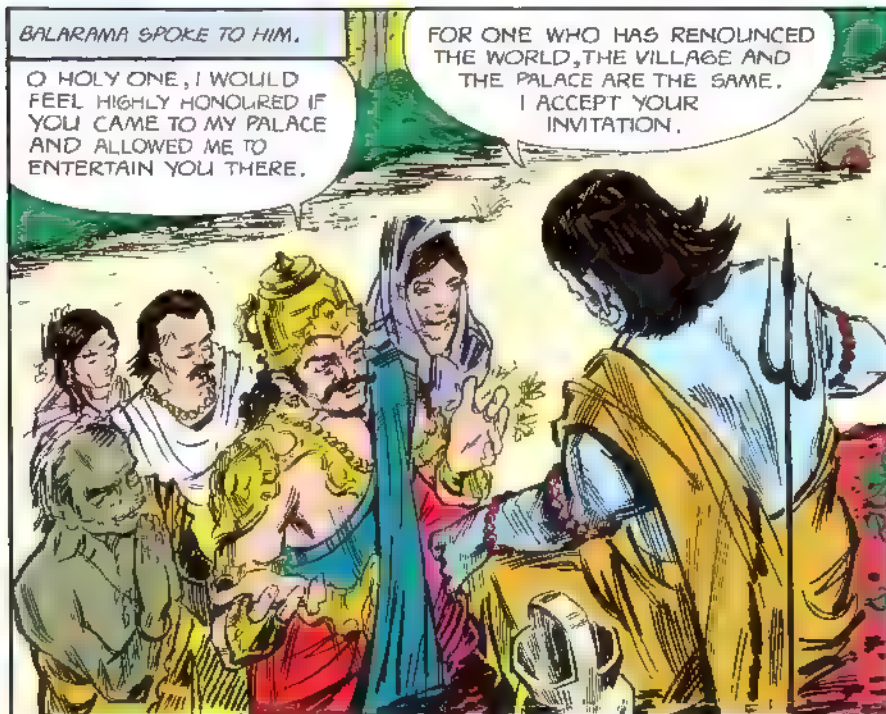
THE CITIZENS SAW THE SANYASI AND CAME TO PAY HIM THEIR RESPECTS. ONE DAY BALARAMA PASSED THAT WAY.



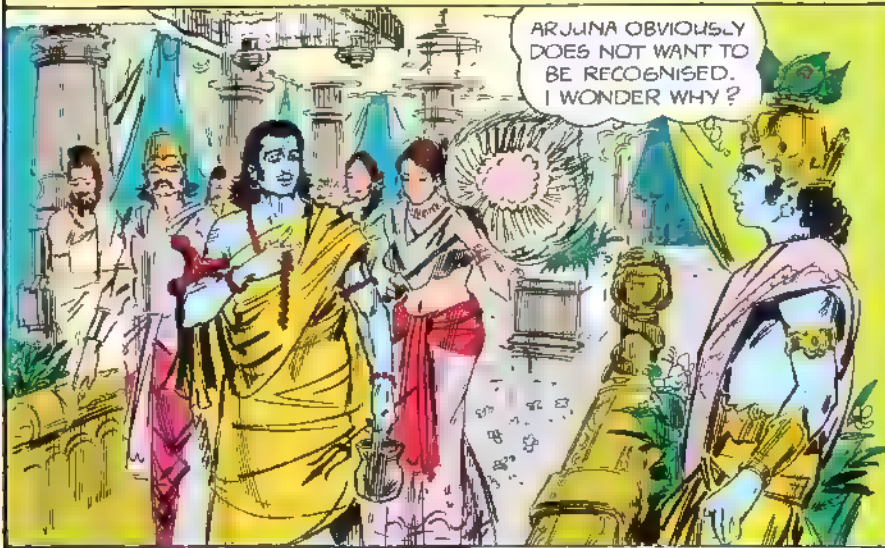
BALARAMA GOT DOWN FROM HIS CHARIOT AND WALKED UP TO THE SANYASI. THE MOMENT HE SAW ARJUNA, HE TOOK AN INSTANT LIKING TO HIM.







HE WAS ABOUT TO TALK TO HIM WHEN ARJUNA SILENCED HIM WITH A WINK.



KRISHNA TOOK THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION ARJUNA





ARJUNA TOLD HIM EVERYTHING. AS HE WAS ABOUT TO FINISH, A DAZZLING BEAUTY WITH HER BEVY OF MAIDS WALKED PAST THEM.

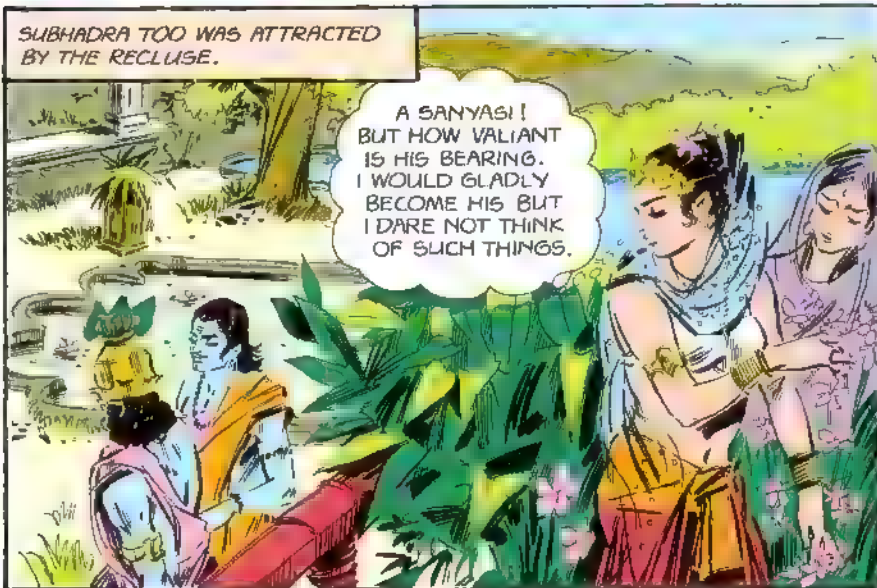
A GODDESS INCARNATE!  
WHO IS SHE?

THAT IS  
SUBHADRA.



SUBHADRA TOO WAS ATTRACTED  
BY THE RECLUSE.

A SANYASI!  
BUT HOW VALIANT  
IS HIS BEARING.  
I WOULD GLADLY  
BECOME HIS BUT  
I DARE NOT THINK  
OF SUCH THINGS.

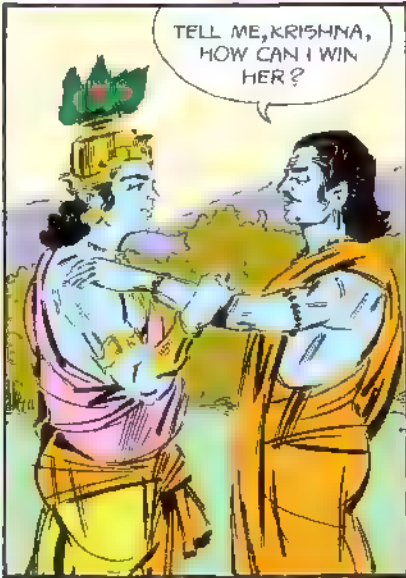


ARJUNA KEPT STARING AFTER HER.

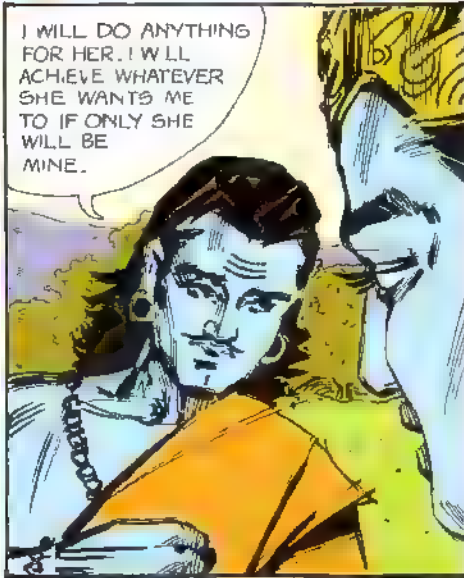
WHO CAN RESIST THE  
CHARMS OF SUCH A  
GIRL? WERE SHE  
TO BECOME MY  
WIFE, ALL PROSPERITY  
WOULD BE MINE.



TELL ME, KRISHNA,  
HOW CAN I WIN  
HER?



I WILL DO ANYTHING  
FOR HER. I WILL  
ACHIEVE WHATEVER  
SHE WANTS ME  
TO IF ONLY SHE  
WILL BE  
MINE.





KRISHNA WAS DELIGHTED. HE PREFERRED ARJUNA TO DURYODHANA FOR HIS SISTER.

IF SHE IS WILLING, WHY DON'T YOU RUN AWAY WITH HER?



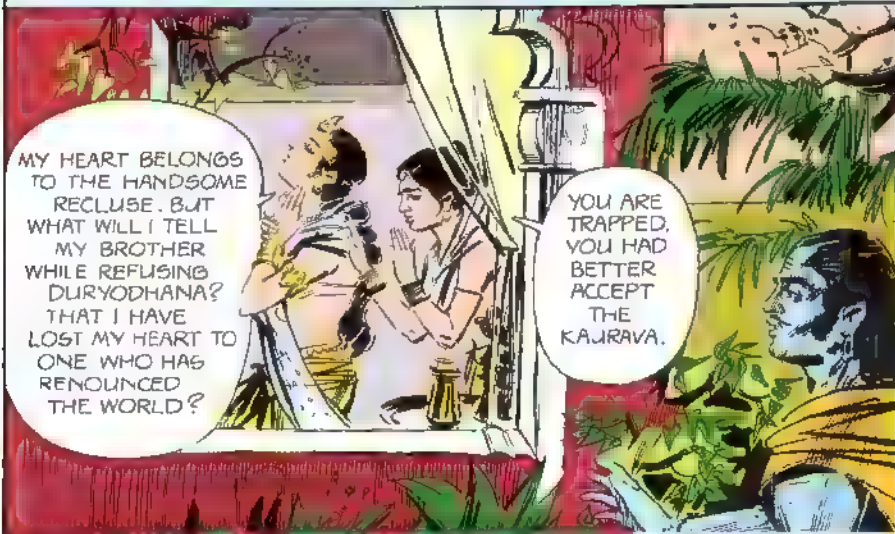
WOULD THAT BE PROPER?

YES. A BRAVE KSHATRIYA MAY ABDUCT A GIRL TO MARRY HER.



AS THE DAYS PASSED, ARJUNA OFTEN SAW SUBHADRA BUT HAD NO CHANCE TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE THOUGHT. THEN ONE DAY—

MY HEART BELONGS TO THE HANDSOME RECLUSE. BUT WHAT WILL I TELL MY BROTHER WHILE REFUSING DURYODHANA? THAT I HAVE LOST MY HEART TO ONE WHO HAS RENOUNCED THE WORLD?



YOU ARE TRAPPED. YOU HAD BETTER ACCEPT THE KAJRAVA.

THIS CONFESSION WAS ALL THAT ARJUNA NEEDED.

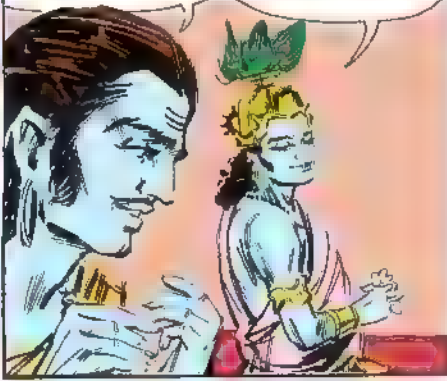


GOOD! NOW I MUST GET YUDHISHTHIRA'S APPROVAL.

ARJUNA THEN MET KRISHNA AND TOLD HIM WHAT HE HAD OVERHEARD.

BUT I MUST GET YUDHISHTHIRA'S CONSENT AND APPROVAL BEFORE I ACT.

THAT IS EASY. I WILL SEND A MESSENGER TO HIM STRAIGHTAWAY.



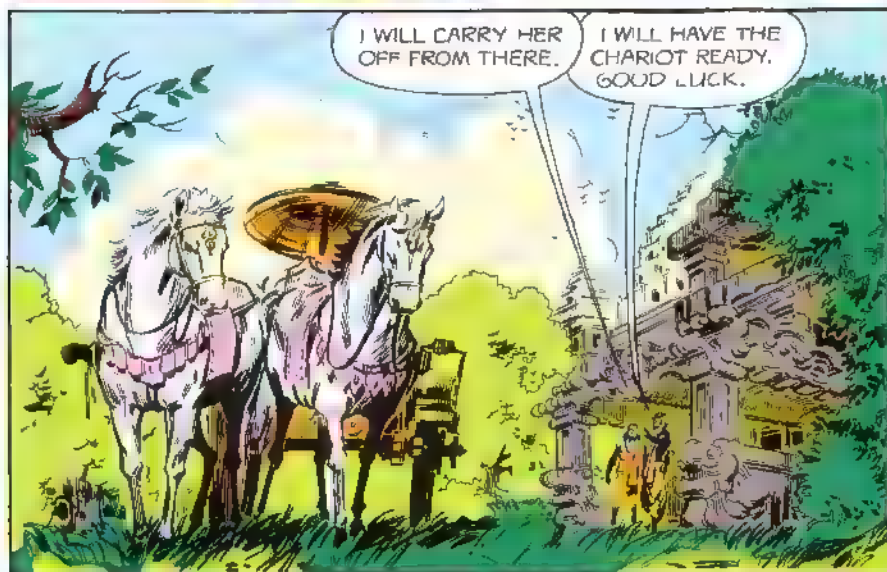
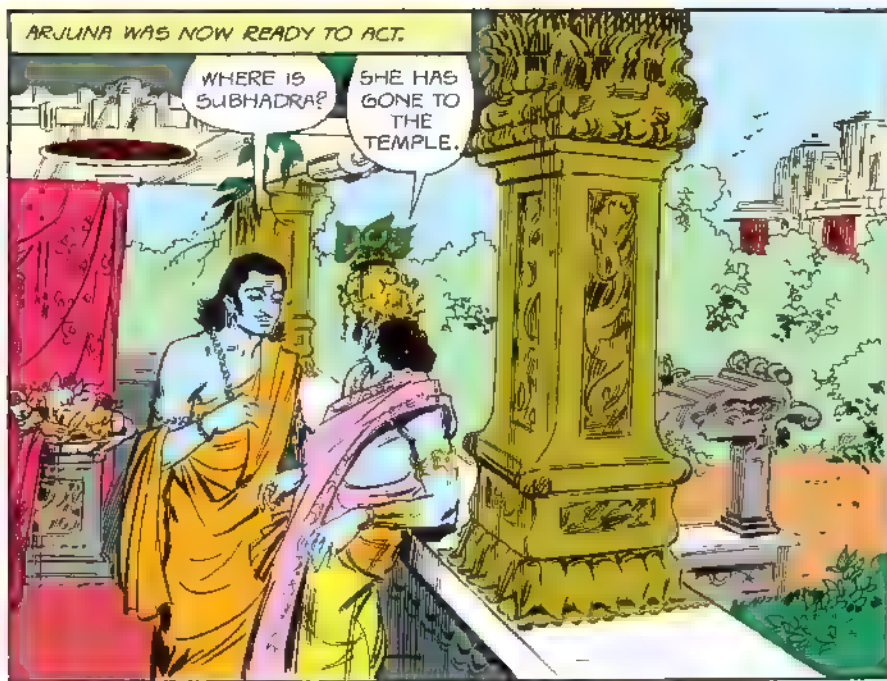
A FEW DAYS LATER THE MESSENGER RETURNED AND BROUGHT THE REPLY ARJUNA SOUGHT. KRISHNA GAVE HIM THE NEWS.



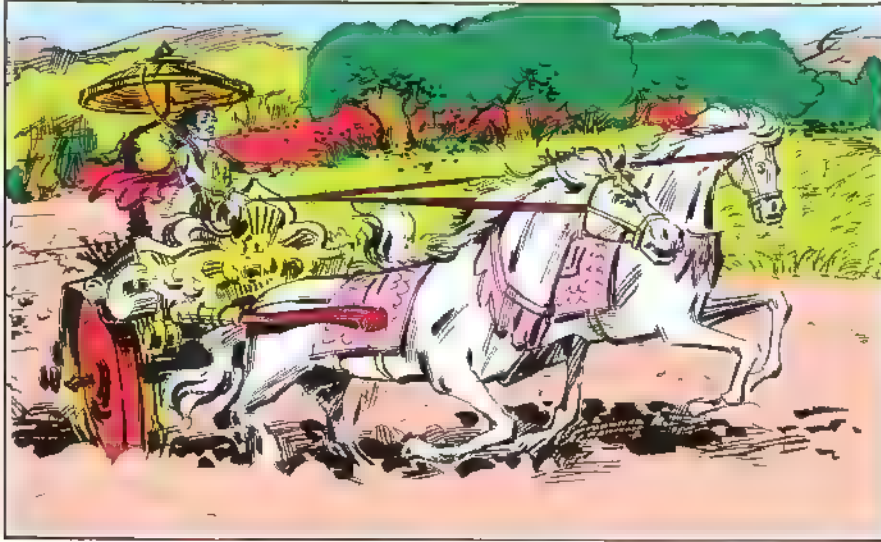
YUDHISHTHIRA HAS AGREED THAT OUR PLAN IS PROPER FOR A KSHATRIYA.

HAD NO DOUBT THAT HE WOULD.



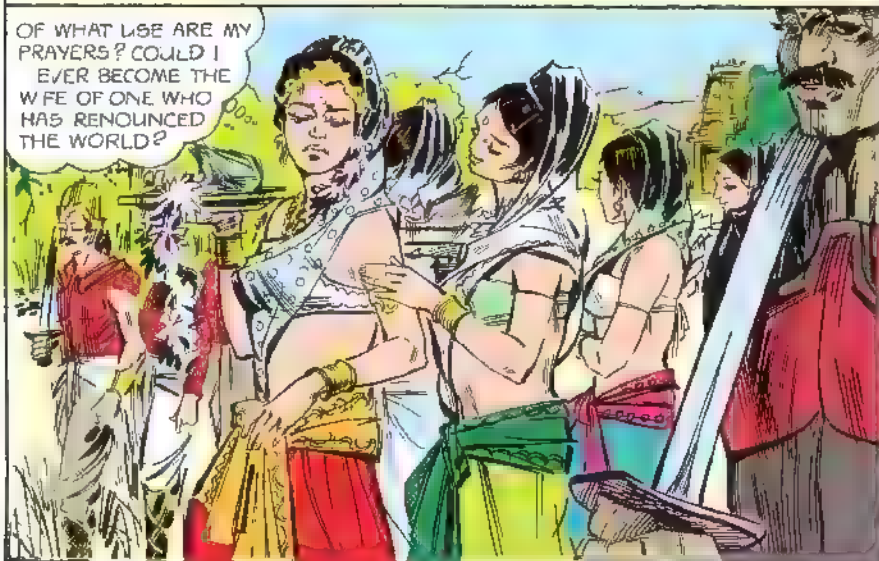


AS SOON AS THE CHARIOT WAS READY ARJUNA SET OUT TO TAKE HIS BRIDE.

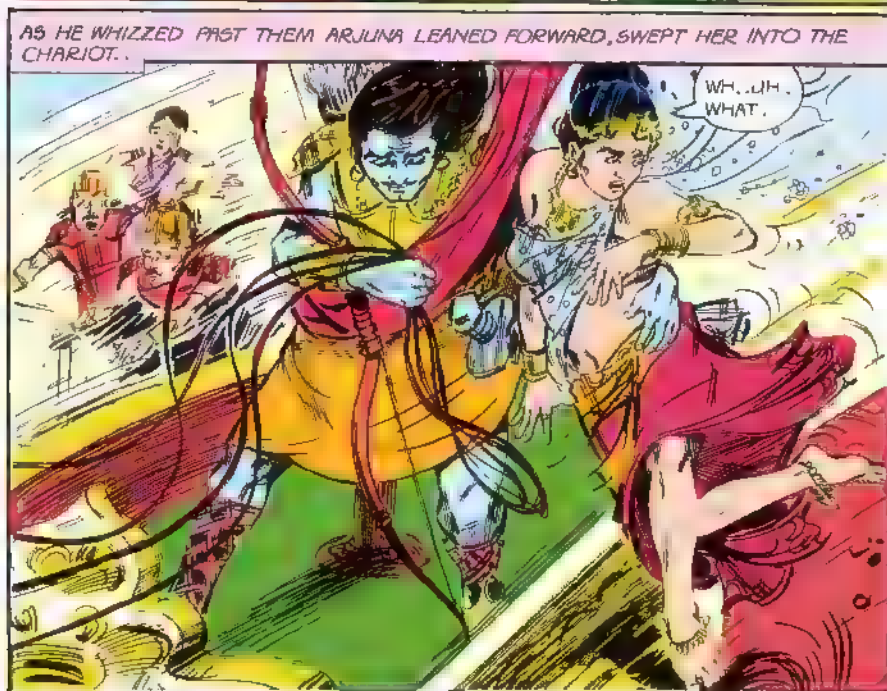
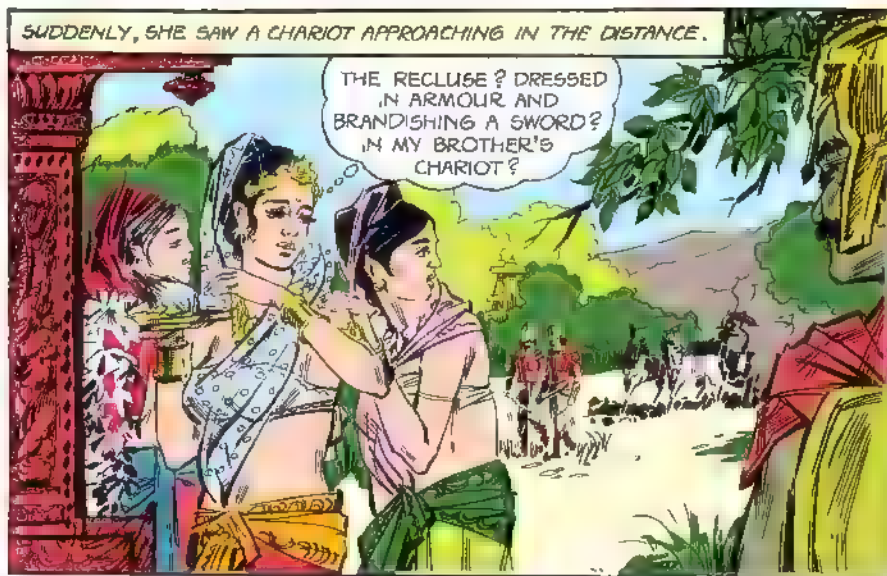


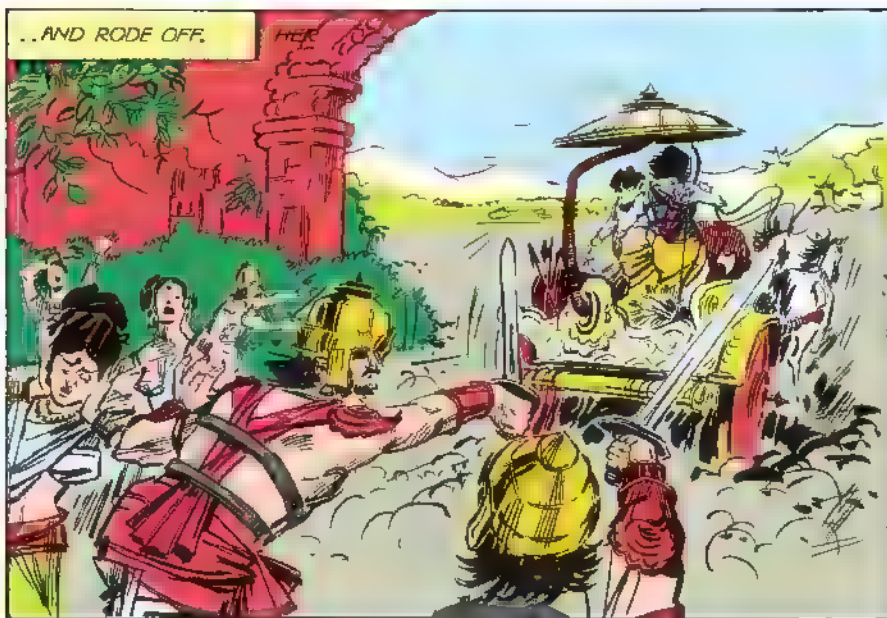
MEANWHILE SUBHADRA HAVING WORSHIPPED THE DEITIES, WAS ON HER WAY TO THE PALACE.

OF WHAT USE ARE MY PRAYERS? COULD I EVER BECOME THE WIFE OF ONE WHO HAS RENOUNCED THE WORLD?



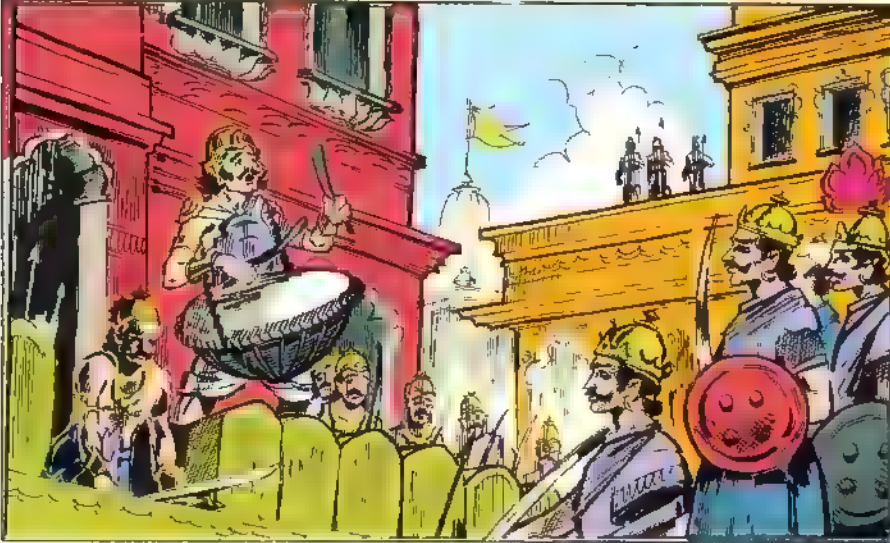




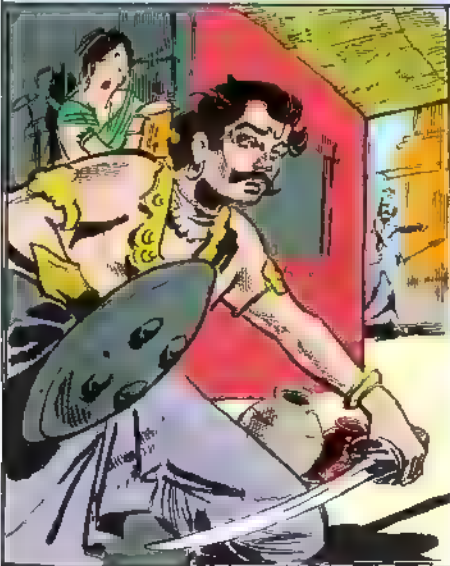




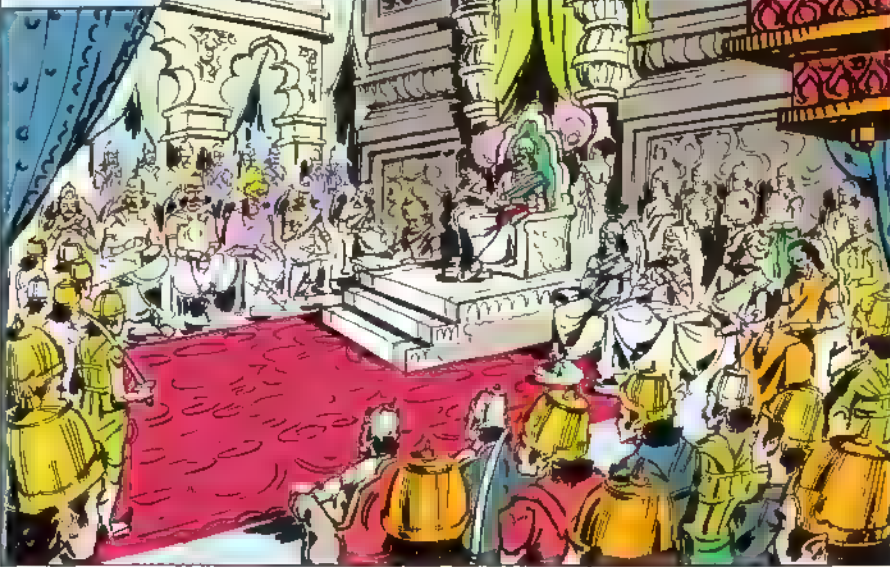
AS SOON AS THEY REACHED THE COURT AT DWARAKA, THEY RELATED THE WHOLE INCIDENT TO THE CHIEF OFFICIAL, WHO SUMMONED ALL THE CLANSMEN TO ARMS.



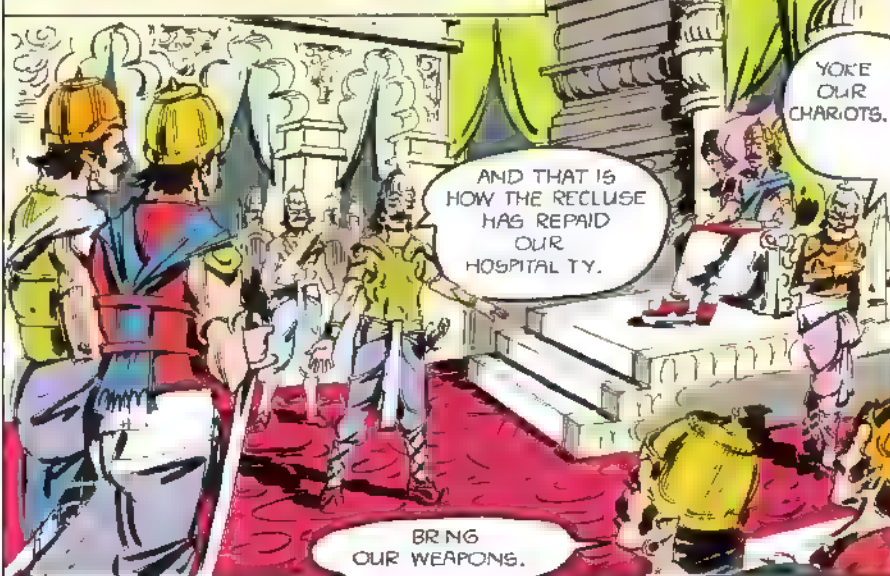
STIRRED BY THE CALL THE CLANSMEN LEFT WHATEVER THEY WERE DOING.



THEY POURED IN FROM ALL DIRECTIONS AND TOOK THEIR PLACES IN THE COURTROOM



THE CHIEF OFFICIAL TOLD THEM EVERYTHING

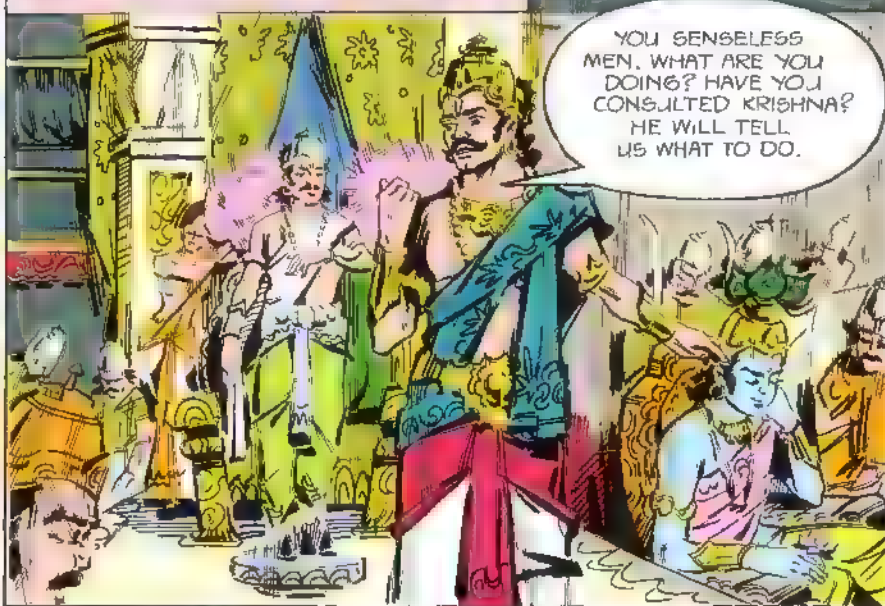




LOUD WAS THE UPROAR WHEN THEIR CHARIOTS, ARMOUR AND STANDARDS WERE BEING ASSEMBLED.



AT THAT MOMENT BALARAMA CAME OUT.





O KRISHNA,  
HOW CAN YOU  
REMAIN CALM  
WHEN OUR  
HELPLESS SISTER  
IS IN THE  
CLUTCHES OF  
A WILY  
RECLUSE?

THAT WAS NO RECLUSE.  
IT WAS ARJUNA,  
THE PANDAVA.



ARJUNA, THE  
PANDAVA?

YES! AND  
IT WAS NO  
ABDUCTION  
EITHER.  
IT WAS A  
MARRIAGE.  
SUBHADRA'S  
INNERMOST  
WISHES  
WERE  
KNOWN  
TO H.M.





BUT I HAD  
DECIDED TO  
GIVE HER TO  
DURYODHANA.



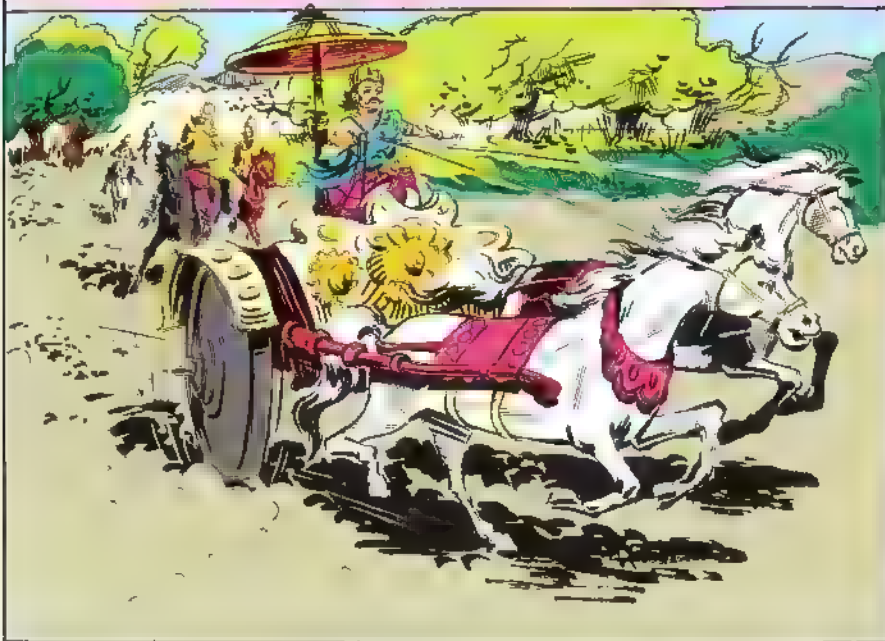
AGAINST HER  
WISHES? ARJUNA  
KNEW THIS, AND  
BEHAVED AS A  
KSHATRIYA SHOULD.



WE HAD BETTER  
ACCEPT IT AND  
NOT INTERFERE.  
HE IS INVINCIBLE  
IN BATTLE. IF WE  
GIVE CHASE AND  
ARE DEFEATED  
BY HIM, WE WILL  
LOSE FACE!



SO BALARAMA AND A FEW CLANSMEN SET OUT ON THE MISSION.





THEY SOON CAME UPON A STATIONARY CHARIOT. ARJUNA AND SUBHADRA WERE RESTING UNDER THE SHADE OF A TREE.

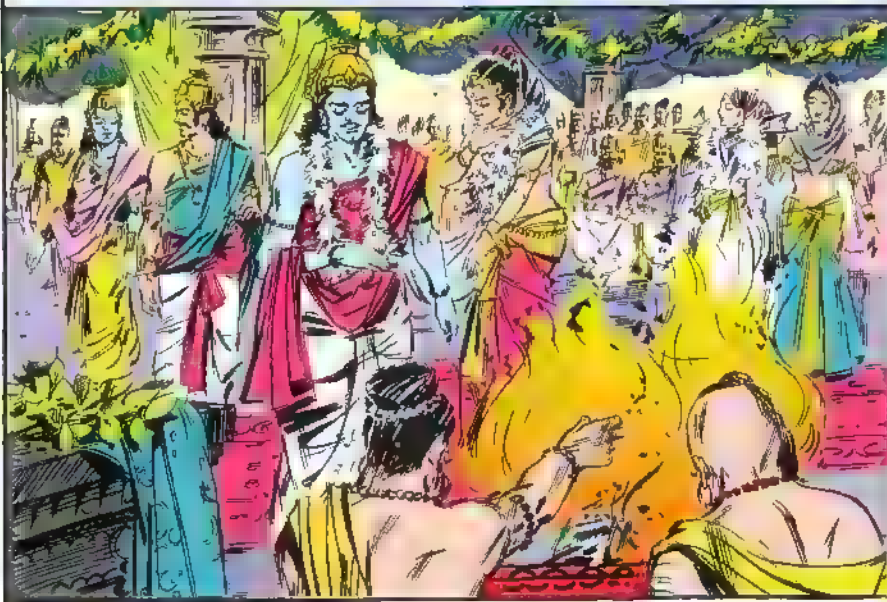


BALARAMA WALKED UP TO THEM.

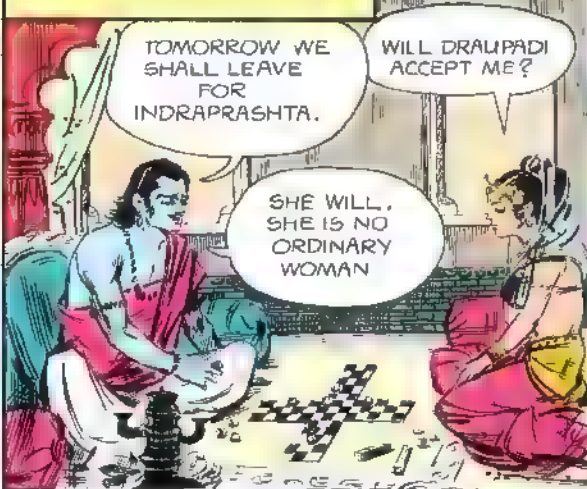
WE HAVE COME TO  
TAKE YOU BACK, YOU  
SHALL MARRY  
SUBHADRA IN  
OUR CITY.



LATER, AT DWARAKA, ARJUNA MARRIED SUBHADRA.



TIME FLEW PAST AND SOON  
THE PERIOD OF ARJUNA'S  
EXILE WAS OVER.

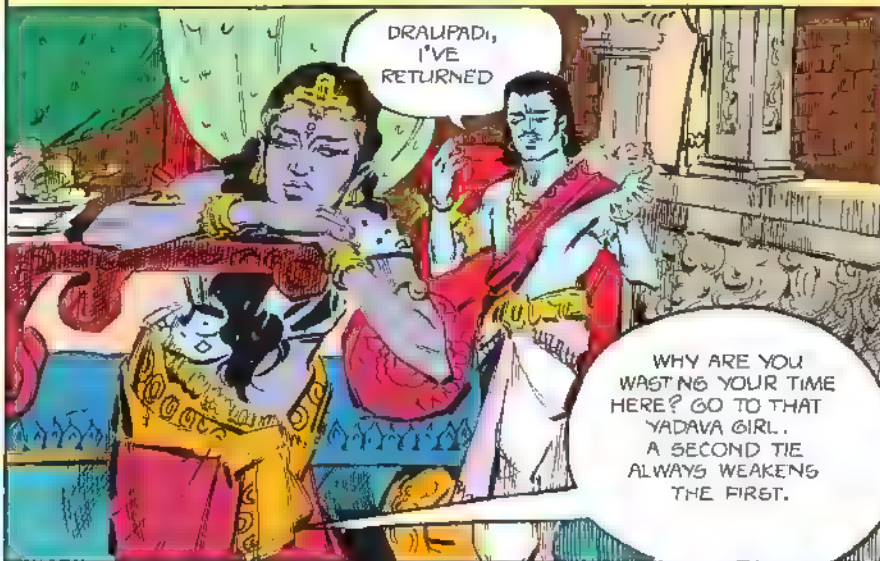


AT INDRAPRASHTA, THEY  
FIRST PAID THEIR  
RESPECTS TO  
YUDHISHTHIRA.

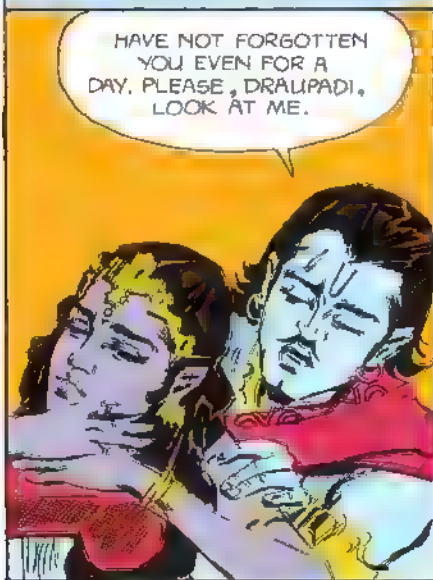




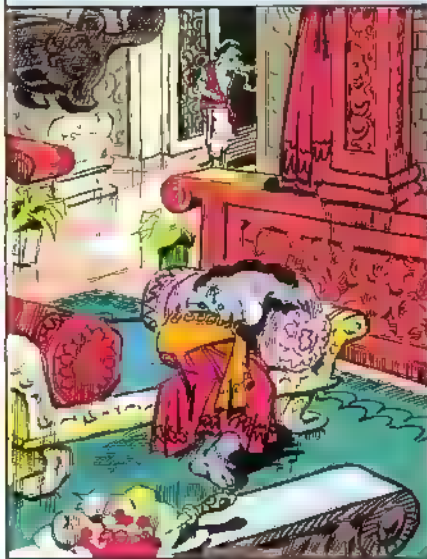
THEN LEAVING SUBHADRA IN THEIR CHAMBER, ARJUNA WENT TO DRAUPADI.



ARJUNA TRIED TO PACIFY HER.



BUT DRAUPADI WOULD NOT SOFTEN,  
AND ARJUNA WENT OUT OF THE ROOM.









DRUPADI WAS MOVED AND ASHAMED. SHE ROSE HASTILY FROM HER COUCH AND EMBRACED SUBHADRA.



# WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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